

schemes for the development of eastern Uttar Pradesh are being implemented; and

(b) if so, what is the number out of those schemes which have been implemented particularly for the industrial development of Balia, Gazi-pur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Jaunpur and how many such schemes are under Government's consideration at present?]

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदम्बा प्रसाद यादव) : (क) जी, हाँ ।

(ख) केन्द्र द्वारा प्रायोजित जिला उद्योग केन्द्रों की योजना पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के बलिया, गाजीपुर, देवरिया तथा इलाहाबाद नामक कुछ जिलों में कार्यान्वित की जा रही है । पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के शेष जिलों को इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल किये जाने पर विचार किया जा रहा है । इस अलावा बलिया में केन्द्रिय पूंजीगत सहायता योजना लागू है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The centrally sponsored Scheme of the District Industries Centres is being implemented in some of the districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh namely, Balia, Ghazipur, Deoria and Allahabad. The remaining districts of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh are being considered for coverage under the programme. Besides the Central Capital Subsidy Scheme is applicable in Balia.]

Foreign participation in scientific and technical research and development projects

244. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow

† [] English translation.

foreign participation in various scientific and technical research and development projects in country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b) Under the bilateral Agreements on cooperation in Science and Technology between India and various foreign countries provisions exist for joint research and development projects. The fields of cooperation are identified on considerations of relevance, benefit and interest to both countries. All concerned agencies of Government are involved in arriving at decisions on fields to be chosen for such cooperation. The fields as identified are generally incorporated in a Programme of Cooperation between the two countries. Actual Projects in these fields are taken up for implementation by scientific institutions/organisation in the two countries. All such programmes of cooperation are executed under Government auspices with appropriate review and monitoring.

Block-Level Planning in the Country

245. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on block-level planning in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when block-level planning is proposed to be introduced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) to (c) A programme of intensive development of 2,300 blocks in the country has been initiated during the current year (1978-79). Block-level plans for full employment are to be prepared for all these blocks in a phased manner. Operational guidelines for the preparation of such

plans under are preparation, on the lines proposed by the Dantwala Group on Block-level planning.

Monopoly of trade in tribal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

246. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread feeling against the manner in which one Bombay firm has been given monopoly of trade in the tribal areas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for several decades;

(b) whether Government have received complaints that the said firm has used its monopolistic position to exploit and pollute the tribal population; and

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to end this monopoly and exploitation, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c) The trade in the Nicobar group of islands which are predominantly inhabited by tribal Nicobarese is being handled by two tribal co-operative societies one functioning at Car Nicobar and the other at Nancowrie. Earlier to this arrangement such trade was being handled by M/s Akoojee Jadwets who were given necessary licenses by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration as required under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

As there were complaints about the alleged exploitation of tribals by these traders, Government took a decision not to renew their licenses.

However, when such a step was initiated, writ petitions were filed by the traders in the Calcutta High Court and injunction orders were obtained by them. Subsequently as a result of protracted negotiations with the traders an agreement was reached and the traders agreed to withdraw from trading activities in the Nicobar group of islands. The trade in the Nicobar group of islands is at present in the hands of tribals themselves who are running the two co-operative societies as mentioned above.

Programme for harnessing solar energy

* **247. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any programme for harnessing solar energy in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) whether harnessing of the solar energy is being done in collaboration with any foreign country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Utilisation of Solar Energy for a wide range of applications with special emphasis on its use in rural areas has been given high priority by Government. Organised Research and Development with significant financial inputs provided by the Department of Science & Technology have led to the successful prototype development of solar energy devices such as: Solar Dryers for certain agricultural products; solar water and spaceheating systems for domestic and medium scale applications;